

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 NRC-07 ACDA-10 OES-06 EB-08 TRSE-00 FEAE-00  
/123 W

-----151753Z 042836 /41

R 151727Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6505  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
ERDA WASHDC  
ERDA GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04618

DEPT. PASS NRC

E.O.: 11652 N/A  
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PARM, GW, BR  
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ABOUT CHRISTOPHER VISIT TO BONN

REF: BONN 4243; BONN 4458

1. SUMMARY. EARLY NEWSPAPER COMMENTS ABOUT THE RESULTS OF DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE CHRISTOPHER'S VISIT TO BONN AGREE THAT NOTHING NEW EMERGED AND THAT BOTH PARTIES QUITE OBVIOUSLY ARE PREPARED FOR LENGTHY CONSULTATIONS. WEEKEND AND MONDAY EDITIONS CONTINUE FRONT PAGE REPORTING. MOST COMMENTS SEE A CLEAR LINK BETWEEN THE RESULTS OF CHRISTOPHER'S VISIT TO BONN AND FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON, ALTHOUGH THIS HAS BEEN DENIED OFFICIALLY BY A FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN. END SUMMARY.

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2. MARCH 11 "DIE WELT" EMPHASIZES THAT FRG CHANCELOR SCHMIDT INTERVENED DIRECTLY INTO THE TALKS BETWEEN HERMES AND CHRISTOPHER. THE PAPER INTERPRETS SCHMIDT'S GESTURE AS DISPLAY OF IMPORTANCE HE ATTRIBUTES TO THE US-GERMAN DISCUSSIONS. IN THE SAME CONTEXT "DIE WELT"

MENTIONS A LETTER WHICH HAD BEEN SENT FROM SCHMIDT TO PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT THE GERMAN POSITION IN THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE BRASILIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT. SCHMIDT REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED THAT GERMANY WAS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE NPT WITHOUT THREATENING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL. "DIE WELT" CITES DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AS SAYING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANSWER PROVES THAT BOTH PARTIES ARE EAGER TO SOLVE THE EXISTING PROBLEMS IN FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE MANNER.

3. ACCORDING TO MARCH 11 "BONNER GENERALANZEIGER" (GAZ) POLITICAL CIRCLES IN BONN HOPE THAT A COMPROMISE MIGHT BE FOUND WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE GERMAN POSITION IN VIEW OF RECENT COMMENTS IN THE AMERICAN PRESS AND REACTIONS BY OFFICIALS ASSOCIATED WITH ENERGY ADVISER SCHLESINGER WHO FEAR THAT A VERY RESTRICTIVE NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY MIGHT TOTALLY IMPEDE THE FAST BREEDER REACTOR PROGRAM WHICH IS REGARDED VITAL FOR THE FUTURE ENERGY SUPPLY IN THE US. IN ITS ARTICLE GAZ SKETCHES THE GERMAN POSITION THAT CONTROL OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION IS BEST ACCOMPLISHED BY COOPERATION.

4. GERMANY'S ONLY LEADING SUNDAY PAPER "WELT AM SONNTAG" (WS) ON MARCH 13 CHARACTERIZES AN INTERVIEW WITH FORMIN GENSCHER AS AN ATTEMPT UNCLASSIFIED

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TO PLAY DOWN THE CRISIS IN GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS. IN HIS REMARKS GENSCHER SAID THAT HIS VISIT WAS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING FIRST CONTACT WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN VIEW OF THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. WE, HOWEVER, DRAWS A DIFFERENT CONCLUSION. ALLEGEDLY CHRISTOPHER DEMANDED A DELAY IN THE ISSUANCE OF THE EXPORT LICENSES FOR THE BLUE PRINTS FOR THE DEMONSTRATION ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING PLANTS. THE NEWSPAPER ASSERTS THAT THE FRG HAS A CONTRACT OBLIGATION TO DELIVER THESE BLUEPRINTS BY THE END OF MARCH. AT STATE SECRETARY HERMES' REFUSAL, CHRISTOPHER REPORTEDLY ANSWERED THAT IN THIS CASE PRESIDENT CARTER INSISTED THAT EITHER CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT OR FORMIN GENSCHER COME TO WASHINGTON.

IN A FOLLOW-UP STORY MONDAY'S "DIE WELT" CITES AN OFFICIAL DENIAL OF THIS INTERPRETATION OF

GENSCHER'S VISIT, BUT IN THE SAME COLUMN NOTES  
THAT NON-OFFICIAL CIRCLES IN WASHINGTON CONFIRM

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THE ABOVE DESCRIPTION.

5. "FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU" (FR) REPORTS THAT IT  
WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO CONFIRM IN BONN THE INFORMATION  
FROM "US BANKING CIRCLES" THAT THE TWO PARTIES  
WOULD REACH AGREEMENT IN TWO TO THREE WEEKS.  
FR SPECULATES THAT ANY SUCH SOLUTION WOULD BE  
HANDLED IN A VERY CAUTIOUS WAY NOT TO EMBARASS  
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WHICH HAD MOVED A  
LITTLE TOO FAR WITH ITS CRITICISM AGAINST FRENCH  
AND GERMAN EXPORT OF SENSITIVE NUCLEAR FACILITIES.  
THIS US OBJECTION, THE PAPER OBSERVES, HAD NOT  
TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION THAT SUCH AN EXPORT BAN  
MIGHT WEAKEN THE NPT.

6. MARCH 14 "BONNER GENERALANZEIGER" (GAZ)  
COMMENTS ON THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN  
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SCHMIDT AND CARTER. SCHMIDT, ACCORDING TO GAZ, STATED THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE NPT SIGNATORY NATIONS HAD TRUSTED IN ASSURANCES FROM THE NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES THAT NO DISCRIMINATION WOULD OCCUR. SUCH DISCRIMINATION WOULD INEVITABLY WIDEN THE GAP BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIAL NATIONS AND THE LDC'S. PRESIDENT CARTER ALLEGEDLY DID NOT RESPOND TO THESE POLITICAL ASPECTS, BUT RATHER RESTRICTED HIMSELF TO GENERAL THOUGHTS ABOUT NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGIES. GAZ ALSO REPORTS THAT IT HAD RECEIVED A DOCUMENT FROM THE BRASILIAN EMBASSY OUTLINING THE NECESSITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM. ONLY THE NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH GERMANY IN ITS ENTIRETY WOULD CONTRIBUTE VITALLY TO THIS PROGRAM. THEREFORE, IT COULD NOT BE CUT INTO PIECES. THIS DOCUMENT ALSO EMPHASIZES BRAZIL'S INTENTION NOT TO JOIN THE ARMS' RACE WHICH WAS PROVEN BY THE FACT THAT BRAZIL HAD JOINED SEVEN TREATIES' AIMED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY AGAINST THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE NPT, HOWEVER, COULD NOT BE SIGNED BECAUSE OF ITS DISCRIMINATORY CHARACTER.

7. THIS SUPPLEMENTS MEDIA REACTION REPORTING ON DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER'S VISIT, AS CARRIED IN DAILY USIS MEDIA REACTION REPORTS AND THE TWO REFTELS. STOESEL

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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